United Nations A/71/743

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2017
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 43
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the 184th anniversary of the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom, marked on 3 January (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Martín **García Moritán**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-00363 (E) 160117 170117

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

Today marks the 184th anniversary of the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands. On 3 January 1833, British forces evicted the lawfully established Argentine population and authorities from the Islands and replaced them with British subjects. The Argentine Republic immediately protested that illegitimate act of force, to which it never consented.

Since its beginnings as an independent nation, the Argentine Republic has, through government acts, publicly expressed its political resolve to exercise its effective sovereignty over the southern territories and maritime areas which it inherited from Spain.

Today, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm once again the inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The permanent and unrenounceable objective of recovering the full exercise of sovereignty over these territories and maritime areas, in accordance with the principles of international law, while respecting the way of life of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands, is enshrined in the first transitional provision of the national Constitution. This objective is a State policy and reflects the collective desire of the entire Argentine people.

In 1965, the General Assembly, with its adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), recognized the existence of a colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands and took note of a dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over the said Islands, inviting both Governments to settle the dispute through bilateral negotiations. A further nine General Assembly resolutions, as well as annual resolutions of the Special Committee on Decolonization, have been adopted along the same lines.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/49, the Republic of Argentina calls upon the United Kingdom to refrain from engaging in unilateral acts in the area under dispute, in particular acts related to the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

Our region has shown unanimous support for the Republic of Argentina's legitimate sovereignty rights through a variety of pronouncements at the presidential summits of the States parties and associated States of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Other multilateral and regional forums have also expressed their support for the resumption of negotiations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Group of 77 and China, the South American and Arab Countries Summit, the Africa-South America Summit and the Ibero-American Summit.

The Argentine Republic reiterates its firm commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and to respect for international law and invites the United Kingdom to further the dialogue started the previous year, with a view to resuming the negotiations that might make it possible to find a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas as soon as possible, in accordance with the repeated calls of the international community.

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2017